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The National Guard

UPDATE

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Today's Army National Guard has an all volunteer paid end strength of 441,470, a net gain of 7,211 over FY 84, with a goal of 450,496 for FY 86. We represent about 30% of the total Army's strength and 46% of its combat units...

We're much different than the National Guard of before. During World War II there were the luxuries of time and geographic isolation that allowed the poorly equipped National Guard units to gain training and equipment parity with active units and deploy to all theaters. Manpower was the issue during the Korean Conflict when Guard units were mobilized while they were still rebuilding from the costly effort of helping win World War II. And during Vietnam, while Guard units were fully manned and much better equipped and trained, decisions by civilian political leaders precluded all but very limited call-ups and deployment...

Today's force structure — The Guard is deeply ingrained in the economic and social life of 2,600 communities across the nation and its territories. The 4,200 units form 10 divisions, 19 combat arms brigades, three medical brigades, four armored cavalry regiments, two Special Forces groups and 17 major headquarters. Other Guard-unique units include four TOW battalions, five scout battalions, one mountain infantry battalion and one Roland ADA battalion. We're responsible for 42% of the combat divisions, 73% of the Army's separate brigades, 20% of the Special Forces groups, 69% of the infantry battalions, 46% of the mechanized infantry battalions, 48% of the armored battalions, 57% of the armored cavalry regiments, 47% of the field artillery battalions and 33% of the aviation units...

After an airlift *to Fort McCoy, infantrymen from Green Bay, Wis., move out to the field.*

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The National Guard

Engineer units *from several states built roads and bridges in Panama during 1984-85.*

The Army Guard's full-time support program consists primarily of Active Guard/Reserve and military technician personnel. These full-time personnel help organize, administer, recruit and train all Guard members. Full-time support is projected to reach 50,912 in FY 86, a substantial increase from the full-time force of 27,688 in FY 74....

Budget — The Army Guard operated during FY 85 with a federal budget of nearly $4.57 billion. At current rates, exclusive of weapons and equipment, the Army Guard operates for 5.9% of the total Army budget....

Equipment — More than $1 billion in new equipment was planned during FY 85. New gear includes M1 tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, improved TOW vehicles, M198 howitzers, Chaparral systems and AH-1s and UH-60 helicopters....

Facilities — The Army Guard has 5,086 facilities. The FY 85 construction budget was $98.6 million, spent mostly on 49 major construction projects across the U.S.....

Volunteer spirit — We're all volunteers and that's a big part of what makes the Army Guard strong and effective. Look for the leadership backbone of a community and you'll find National Guard members filling many civilian roles. They share their skill and enthusiasm for helping others as civilians and as civilian-soldiers....

Readiness — Today "Guard drill" isn't a cozy club meeting, if it ever was; units train with up-to-date equipment and the latest methods, sometimes leading the pace for the Army with innovative training devices and techniques. In two years, six Army Guard battalions have tested their capabilities at the National Training Center. An additional 2,500 Guard soldiers have trained at the NTC as individuals in the Key Personnel Upgrade Program. Higher levels of external ARTEP evaluations are being conducted, an increase from 61 to 81 at the batallion level from FY 84 to FY 85. During FY 85, 22 companies and 11 battalions participated in three-week annual training periods....

Evaluations of Army National Guard units are conducted by active Army soldiers to active Army standards....

The National Guard

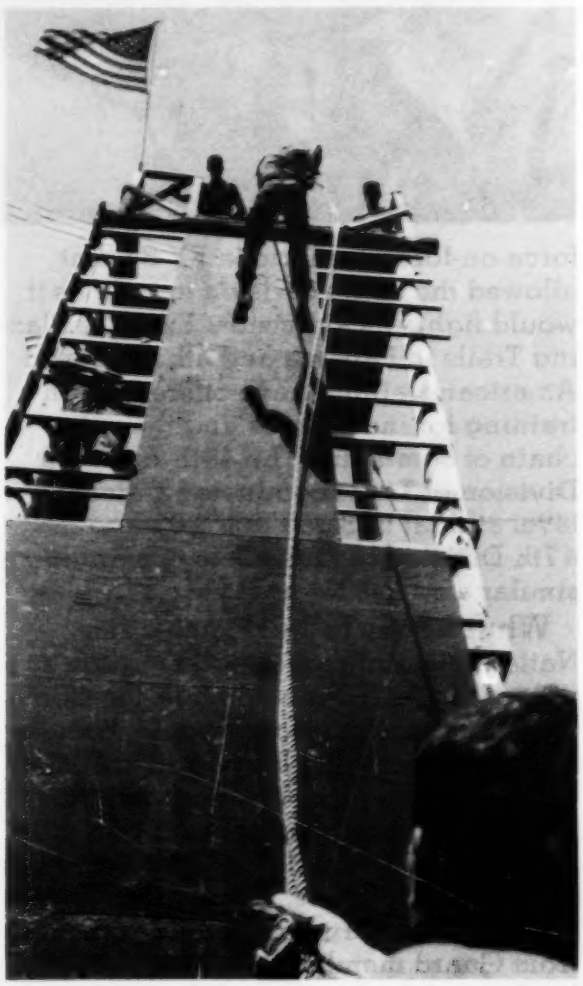
State missions continue as an important part of any Guard member's duty. A distinguished legacy of service exists, whether it's fires, floods or coping with a potentially dangerous prison disturbance. During FY 85, 18,162 Guard members helped their neighbors in 420 call-ups...

What the Army National Guard has done — Units from 10 states (nearly 12,000 troops) combined efforts with the active Army, the Army Reserve and Panama Defense Forces to continue the construction of a road started last year in the Republic of Panama. Exercise Blazing Trails provided realistic engineer training, tropical medical training and logistics over-the-shore training, not available in the United States....

Overseas deployment training involved 469 Army Guard units during FY 84, a total of 7,700 troops. The FY 85 schedule included 757 units/cells, a total of 23,700 troops (including Blazing Trails). "Task Force Texas" involved more than 400 members of the Texas Army Guard who trained with Honduran Army troops. And more than 100 members of an Illinois artillery unit spent their annual training in Honduras for side-by-side training with the Honduran Army....

REFORGER 84 involved Army Guard members from 38 units—2,466 personnel. Approximately 1,300 Guard members from 12 states were involved in the winter REFORGER 85. For REFORGER 86 an entire mechanized infantry brigade, the 32nd from Wisconsin, will participate, bringing Guard involvement to almost 8,000. The Guard's expanding worldwide role includes 3,500 soldiers for Korea's Team Spirit 86. That exercise will include a task force from California's 40th Mechanized Infantry Division, marking the first return of a major Guard combat unit that fought in the Korean War. Continued progress is being made in boosting the educational levels of all Guard members, especially the officer corps. Requirements for college degrees are being introduced; a baccalaureate is currently required for promotion to major for those initially appointed after September 1983. Leadership training was presented to more than 30,000 NCOs during FY 85 via state military academies, the National Guard's own NCO training program at Little Rock, Ark. and active Army schools....

"Training Up" continues to be an important goal. As an example, the 40th Infantry Division (Mech) conducted a



Soldiers *build their confidence.*

The National Guard

Nebraska *state military academy cadets receive individual weapons training.*

force-on-force scenario in FY 84 that allowed the entire division to train as it would fight - as a division. Exercise Blazing Trails in Panama and other Central American training have offered tough training for individuals and the entire chain of command. The 49th Armored Division of Texas conducted a division-level annual training in FY 85 and the 47th Division of Minnesota is planning a similar exercise for next year....

What needs to be done — The National Guard continues to require support of the active components, the Congress and the American people. We're a big part of the Total Force and are eager to be involved in all levels of training. Another important facet of support must come from the families of Guard members and their employers. As training demands more and more time and energy from Guard members, we need the solid backing of the family and the work place....

Ohio engineer *in demolitions training.*